

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, February 21, 2003

AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING REDUCED BY 75% SINCE SUMMER 2001

Now in its second year of operation, the District of Columbia's Photo Radar Speeding Reduction Program continues to dramatically reduce the number of aggressive speeders on DC's roads and highways. The program has produced some impressive results, based on analysis of the latest data through January 2003.

The percentage of aggressive speeders on DC roads and highways has declined by approximately three-quarters since the program began in the summer of 2001. During January 2003, just 7.5 percent of the vehicles that were monitored by photo radar were exceeding the speeding threshold established for the program. This is the lowest percentage of aggressive speeders in the 19 months that photo radar has been operational. By contrast, 30.9 percent of the vehicles monitored during the July 2001 warning period were exceeding the threshold. Over the past year alone, the percentage of aggressive speeders has declined substantially—from 14.8 percent in January 2002 to 7.5 percent in January 2003. This reduction has occurred even though the number of vehicles monitored by photo radar more than doubled over the past year.

Average speeds on residential streets, arteries and highways all continue to be lower than they were when the program began more than a year ago. On streets with a 25-mph speed limit, for example, the average speed of all vehicles detected by photo radar has fallen from 35.5 mph in July 2001 to 27.1 mph in January 2003—the lowest figure yet for 25-mph zones. Similar results have been recorded in roadways with other speed limits.

DC residents continue to get the message to slow down. Fewer than 25 percent of all photo radar tickets in January 2003 were issued to vehicles registered in DC. During the first 18 months of full operation, more than 475,500 Notices of Infraction were mailed and more than 325,000 were paid, resulting in fines of approximately \$24 million. This level of consistent enforcement has been achieved without pulling officers from other community policing assignments or otherwise diminishing public safety services in DC's neighborhoods.

① You can learn more about the city's automated traffic enforcement programs at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults_text.shtm

① MPDC recently purchased SMART machines for each police district. SMART, or Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer machines, are unmanned devices that measure and display the speed of passing vehicles. The devices do not generate tickets, but have been proven to reduce drivers' speeds.

US MINT POLICE EXECUTES COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH MPDC TO PATROL AREA NEAR MINT HEADQUARTERS

The United States Mint Police have entered into a cooperative agreement with the Metropolitan Police Department to assist in carrying out crime prevention and law enforcement activities. The Mint Police officers will have the power to arrest in an area immediately surrounding the agency's geographical jurisdiction—a roughly rectangular area bounded by 12th Street, NW, to the west, New York Avenue to the northwest, K Street to the north, 7th Street, NW, to the east, and E Street, NW, to the south. The MPDC hopes to benefit from additional resources during special events in the area, the potential for added patrols, as well as assistance with investigations of crimes occurring in this jurisdiction. This is the sixth cooperative agreement the MPDC has entered into, under the 1997 Police Coordination Act.

① You can learn more about this and other cooperative agreements at MPDC's website:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/mint.shtm>

SIXTH DISTRICT OFFICER BYRON PURNELL DECLARED DEPARTMENTAL OFFICER OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY

The Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service (CHAMPS) Award Luncheon was held February 5 at the Park Hyatt Washington, 1201 24th Street, NW, Washington, DC. Each month, the Hotel Association of Washington, DC, joins Chief Ramsey in honoring outstanding MPDC officers. This month, nine officers were recognized, including the Officer of the Month for February, Officer Byron Purnell, of the Sixth District. He and his partner, Officer Trinette Greene, were honored for their work in helping to apprehend a child sexual predator last fall.

On November 5, 2002, Officers Purnell and Greene received a radio assignment on an adult male allegedly exposing himself to a minor at 58th Street, SE, and immediately responded to the location.

The officers arrived on the scene and observed a teenage, male subject on his knees committing oral sexual intercourse on a small boy. The subject observed the officers and immediately fled. A foot pursuit was initiated, with Officer Purnell pursuing the subject for several blocks.

Officer Purnell stopped the subject in the 100 block of 59th Street, NE. Officer Greene remained with the small boy who was a minor and secured the young child. The child was placed in a scout car for his safety.

The officers positively identified the subject. The subject was detained until the Youth and Preventive Services Division (YPSD), Sex Offense Unit, arrived. YPSD confirmed the incident and verified ages of the minor and suspect. The suspect was placed under arrest and charged with First Degree Sexual Assault of a nine-year old minor.

The quick and compassionate actions of Officers Purnell and Greene prevented further incident to the young child and the successful apprehension of a child sexual predator.

① For information on all of February's CHAMPS awardees, see the CHAMPS awards page at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2003/02.shtm>

NEWS & NOTES

District's Non-Emergency Number Consolidation. The MPDC wants to remind residents, businesses, and visitors that the District's seven-digit non-emergency telephone number is being phased out on February 24, 2003. After this date, callers to 727-1010 will be directed to the toll-free 3-1-1 number, placed in service in January 2000. Please use this number for all police non-emergencies. As always, emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1.

Police Foundation Seeks Volunteers for Biased Policing Project. The Police Foundation needs community members to assist with a study being conducted on police-community relations in the District of Columbia. They are currently seeking volunteers for focus group participation from the following groups: Latino, Latino youth, White, Business (including Asian Business owners), At-risk African American Males ages 18-25, Asian, Asian youth, Muslim/Arab, African American youth and Faith communities. If you are interested in participating in this important study, please contact Vanessa Correa at (202) 833-1460 or e-mail vcorrea@policefoundation.org. Please get in touch no later than February 28.

MPDC's CCTV System Remains Activated. In response to the heightened security threat level instigated on February 7, the closed-circuit television system in use in various parts of downtown Washington and the Mall are currently being monitored by police personnel.

① **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS.** The DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary will hold a Performance Hearing on the MPDC on February 25, 2003 at 12:30 pm in the Council Chambers. The chambers are located in the Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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